

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00153 280749Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

/061 W

----- 091699

R 272320Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0307

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PP

SUBJ: NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP LEADERS CALL FOR
STRONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REF : PORT MORESBY 0133

1. NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP LED BY MOMIS AND KAPUTIN
HAVING BEEN DECISIVELY OUTVOTED BY COALITION-UNITED
PARTY COOPERATION DURING LAST SESSION ON MOST CONSITU-
TIONAL ISSUES MAY NOW HOPE TO PARTIALLY RECOUP ON
CONTENTIOUS MATTER OF POWERS TO BE GIVEN PROVINCIAL
GOVTS. IN THIS EFFORT MOMIS AND KAPUTIN MAY GAIN SOME
SUPPORT FROM MORE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS WHICH MOREOVER
DESIRE STRONG PROVINCIAL GOVT TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE
LOCAL INTERESTS. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE SUPPORT PAPUAN
NATIONALISTS AND BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT SUPPORTERS.

2. GOVT CONCESSIONS TO BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT
RE BOUGAINVILLE COPPER ROYALTIES MAY HAVE GIVEN SUPPORTERS
OF STRONG PROVINCIAL GOVT. A BOOST, BUT CONCESSIONS
GIVEN BOUGAINVILLE IN NO MANNER APPROACH AUTONOMY
OUTLINED IN MOMIS' AND KAPUTIN'S SIX POINTS OR
CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT'S RECOMMEN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 00153 280749Z

DATIONS. WE HAVE SOME INDICATION BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL

GOVT WANTED TO OBTAIN FURTHER CONCESSIONS PRIOR TO PROVINCIAL GOVT DEBATE IN HOUSE, PROBABLY IN BELIEF THAT BOUGAINVILLE IN BETTER POSITION TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS THAN OTHER CANDIDATES FOR PROVINCIAL GOVT. THIS SOMARE HAS RESISTED, ARGUING THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE DECIDED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

3. MOMIS AND KAPUTIN SIX POINTS CALCULATED TO APPEAL TO GROUPS ANTAGONISTIC TO STATUS QUO, AND TO UNDERCUT THESE FORCES WE EXPECT SOMARE WILL COMPROMISE BY PROVIDING FOR GREATER PROVINCIAL GOVT POWERS THAN NOW EXIST. HE WILL RESIST CREATION IMMEDIATELY OF A BEVY OF PROVINCIAL GOVTS, BUT RATHER ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE STRUCTURE FOR GRANT OF PROVINCIAL GOVT TO DISTRICTS IN PHASES AS THEY INDIVIDUALLY APPEAR PREPARED TO ACCEPT NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THEM.

4. IN ORDER TO HOLD THIS POSITION SOMARE WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE TO RELY ON UNITED PARTY OPPOSITION SUPPORT. DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED PARTY LEADERSHIP INDICATES IT STILL SMARTING FROM SOMARE REBUFF LAST SESSION OF UNITED PARTY PROPOSAL TO ENTER COALITION. UNITED PARTY NOW HAS PROPOSED THAT IT ENTER COALITION AFTER NEXT HOUSE ELECTIONS, BUT SOMARE HAS NOT AS YET RESPONDED AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL MAKE SUCH A COMMITMENT. IN RETURN FOR ITS SUPPORT UNITED PARTY WILL PLACE DEMANDS ON COALITION RE CONTENT OF LARGE BODY OF ORGANIC LAW TO BE PASSED IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSTITUTION. LAST SESSION UNITED PARTY ATTEMPTED ASSURE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF CONSTITUTION WOULD APPLY TO LAND ACQUISITION MATTERS, WHICH WOULD HAVE IN ESSENCE MADE IMPOSSIBLE THE FORCEABLE ACQUISITION OF ALIENATED PLANTATION LANDS, THEREBY ATTEMPTING TO BIND FUTURE ADMINSTRATIONS TO LAND STAUUS QUO. IN THIS THEY FAILED, BUT THEY NOW HOPE TO INCLUDE IN ORGANIC LAW GUARANTEES WHICH WOULD MAKE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT RADICAL CHANGE IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT EVEN AFTER INDEPANDENCE. THEY DESIRE SOME ORGANIC LAWS TO HAVE PROVISIONS FOR AMENDMENT AS STRINGENT AS THOSE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT M 00153 280749Z

FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION ITSELF. SOMARE WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST THE MORE BLATENT DEMAND S OF THE UNITED PARTY, BUT SOME CONCESSIONS TO THEM WILL FIND THEIR WAY INTO ORGANIC LAW. TO THE DEGREE THAT SOMARE ACCOMODATES THE UNITED PARTY HE LEAVES HIMSELF OPEN TO ATTACK FROM THE KAPUTIN-MOMIS FACTION. REFUSAL TO ACCOMODATE THE UNITED PARTY CAN CONSIDERABLY PROLONG THE DEBATE, HOLD UP PASSAGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL BILL,

AND DELAY INDEPENDENCE. OUR CONTACTS WITH THE CHIEF
MINISTER'S OFFICE AND HOUSE LEADERSHIP ALREADY INDICATE
SCEPTICISM THAT SOMARE'S PROGRAM CAN BE COMPLETED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH HIS TIMETABLE. BUT SOMARE MAY YET
COME UP WITH A COMPROMISE PACKAGE CAPABLE OF DIMINISHING
THE FORCE OF THE RADICALS WHILE MAINTAINING UNITED
PARTY COOPERATION. THE RATHER DRAMATIC DEBATES OF THE
LAST SESSION AT ANY RATE ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE
WITH UNABATED FORCE DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.
OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM00153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750070-0950
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975027/aaaaafqg.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT MORESBY 0133
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP LEADERS CALL FOR STRONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006